

March 7, 2022

To whom it may concern,

Please allow Medical Assistants to give vaccinations in Connecticut. As I am sure you are aware, this is standard practice in most states. There is an extreme nurse shortage ever since the Covid pandemic began. This has resulted not only in difficulty finding and keeping nursing staff, but nurses with no prior experience are demanding \$50/hour and up for positions. Their salaries are approaching physician's salaries in many cases. This is not sustainable. We are not reimbursed by insurance companies for any of the work that nurses do. For the past 1-2 years, Insurance companies are no longer covering nurse visits, especially when related to giving a vaccine. Because Connecticut developed the CT State Vaccine Mandate in 2013, profit can no longer be made on the vaccines themselves, yet we still have to pay nurses to do a job that is not reimbursable. We also have to pay nurses to monitor the refrigerator temperatures for the state, generate reports, meet with state representatives and more....all at no cost to the state while we pay nurse salaries for this work. We have managed to get by (with doctors taking substantial paycuts). Now that nurses are expecting \$50/hour because Covid Vaccine governmental money allowed hospitals to pay nurses that salary just to give vaccines (an easy job that an MA could do) the private practices could not afford to compete with either the easy work or the high paycheck. We are all on the verge of going out of business because at every turn, Connecticut has worked against us. There is no money to pay nurses the salaries they are now demanding when we do not get reimbursed for their work. Even if we did get reimbursed somehow, we cannot pay nurses what doctors get paid when doctors spent 11 years in school and residency training and leave with \$500,000 worth of debt prior to starting their first job. All of the employed physicians would quit and no one would go to medical school. If this pattern continues and we cannot hire M.As to give vaccinations. there will be no pediatricians in the state of Connecticut. I can easily open a practice in Florida, hire Medical Assistants to give vaccines and get paid for the vaccines (since they are private in Florida as they are in most states). You will lose a lot of wonderful pediatricians; medical care will deteriorate, and you will only have the Connecticut State government to blame. I do hope you reconsider. If the State of Connecticut keeps treating physicians so poorly, Connecticut will continue to lose physicians and the tax revenue that physician's offices generate. Someone on the state level needs to start making better decisions about the future of healthcare in our state.

Sincerely,

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